Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-40 (Cancelled)

41. (Currently amended) A ~~The~~ protein variant ~~according to claim 38, wherein: the CNTF, EPO, F1t3L, G-CSF, GH, IL-4, IL-6, IL-12p35, LPT, LIF, OSM, PL, and~~ of TPO ~~are wild-type and are altered by substituting~~ comprising an amino acid substitution of a valine residue for a phenylalanine residue ~~of~~ in at least one of the phenylalanine amino acid residues at ~~between~~ positions ~~110 to 180; and 128, 131~~ 46, 128 and 131 of SEQ ID NO.:25 ~~the IFN α2A, IFN α2B, IFN β, IFN γ, IFN ω and IFN τ are wild-type and are altered by substituting a valine residue for a phenylalanine residue of amino acid residues between positions 1 to 50~~.

42. (Currently Amended) The protein variant according to claim 41, wherein: ~~the CNTF is altered by substituting a valine residue for a phenylalanine residue at position 119, 152 or 178 of an amino acid sequence designed as SEQ ID NO.:1; the EPO is altered by substituting a valine residue for a phenylalanine residue at position 138, 142 or 148 of an amino acid sequence designed as SEQ ID NO.:2; the G-CSF is altered by substituting a valine residue for a phenylalanine residue at position 116, 143, 147 or 163 of an amino acid sequence designed as SEQ ID NO.:4; the GM-CSF is altered by substituting a valine residue for a phenylalanine residue at position 103, 106, 113 or 119 of an amino acid sequence designed as SEQ ID NO.:5; the GH is altered by substituting a valine residue for a phenylalanine residue at position 139, 146, 166, 176 or 191 of an amino acid sequence designed as SEQ ID NO.:6; the IL-2 is altered by substituting a valine residue for a phenylalanine residue at position 42 or 44 of an amino acid sequence designed as SEQ ID NO.:13; the IL-3 is altered by substituting a valine residue for a phenylalanine residue at position 107 or 113 of an amino acid sequence designed as SEQ ID NO.:14; the IL-4 is altered by substituting a valine residue for a phenylalanine residue at position~~

~~112 of an amino acid sequence designed as SEQ ID NO.:15;~~

~~the IL-5 is altered by substituting a valine residue for a phenylalanine residue at position 69 of an amino acid sequence designed as SEQ ID NO.:16;~~

~~the IL-6 is altered by substituting a valine residue for a phenylalanine residue at position 124 of an amino acid sequence designed as SEQ ID NO.:17;~~

~~the IL-12p35 is altered by substituting a valine residue for a phenylalanine residue at position 180 of an amino acid sequence designed as SEQ ID NO.:18;~~

~~the LPT is altered by substituting a valine residue for a phenylalanine residue at position 41 or 92 of an amino acid sequence designed as SEQ ID NO.:19;~~

~~the LIF is altered by substituting a valine residue for a phenylalanine residue at position 156 of an amino acid sequence designed as SEQ ID NO.:20;~~

~~the M-CSF is altered by substituting a valine residue for a phenylalanine residue at position 311 of an amino acid sequence designed as SEQ ID NO.:21;~~

~~the OSM is altered by substituting a valine residue for a phenylalanine residue at position 160 or 169 of an amino acid sequence designed as SEQ ID NO.:22;~~

~~the PL is altered by substituting a valine residue for a phenylalanine residue at position 166 or 176 of an amino acid sequence designed as SEQ ID NO.:23;~~

~~the SCF is altered by substituting a valine residue for a phenylalanine residue at position 199, 205 or 207 of an amino acid sequence designed as SEQ ID NO.:24;~~

the TPO is altered by substituting a valine residue for a phenylalanine residue at position 131 of an amino acid sequence designed as SEQ ID NO.:25~~;~~

~~the IFN-α2A is altered by substituting a valine residue for a phenylalanine residue at position 27, 36 or 38 of an amino acid sequence designed as SEQ ID NO.:7;~~

~~the IFN-α2B is altered by substituting a valine residue for a phenylalanine residue at position 27, 36 or 38 of an amino acid sequence designed as SEQ ID NO.:8;~~

~~the IFN-β is altered by substituting a valine residue for a phenylalanine residue at position 38 of an amino acid sequence designed as SEQ ID NO.:9;~~

~~the IFN-γis altered by substituting a valine residue for a phenylalanine residue at position 32 of an amino acid sequence designed as SEQ ID NO.:10;~~

~~the IFN-ω is altered by substituting a valine residue for a phenylalanine residue at position 27, 36 or 38 of an amino acid sequence designed as SEQ ID NO.:11; and~~

~~the IFN-τ is altered by substituting a valine residue for a phenylalanine residue at position 39 of an amino acid sequence designed as SEQ ID NO.:12~~.

43-76 (Cancelled)

77. (Previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising the protein variant of claim 41 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

78. (Previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising the protein variant of claim 42 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.